Numb. 98

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Is mihi demum vivere & frui Animâ videtur, qui aliquo Negotio intentus, præclari Facinoris aut Artis bonæ Famam quærit. Sal.

From *Thursday November* 17. to *Saturday November* 19. 1709.

From my own Apartment, November 17.

IT has cost me very much Care and Thought to marshal and fix the People under their proper Denominations, and to range them according to their respective Characters. These my Endeavours have been received with unexpected Success in one Kind, but neglected in another: For though I have many Readers, I have but few Converts. This must certainly proceed from a false Opinion, That what I write, is designed rather to amuse and entertain, than convince and instruct. I entered upon my Essays with a Declaration, that I should consider Mankind in quite another Manner than they had hitherto been represented to the ordinary World; and asserted, that none but an useful Life should be with me any Life at all. But lest this Doctrine should have made this small Progress towards the Conviction of Mankind, because it may appear to the Unlearned light and whimsical, I must take Leave to unfold the Wisdom and Antiquity of my first Proposition in these my Essays, to wit, That *every Worthless Man is a Dead Man.* This Notion is as old as *Pythagoras*, in whose School it was a Point of Discipline, That if among the *Auscultoi*, or *Probationers*, there were any who grew weary of studying to be useful, and returned to an idle Life, the rest were to regard them as dead; and upon their Departing, to perform their Obsequies, and raise them Tombs, with Inscriptions, to warn others of the like Mortality, and quicken them to Resolutions of refining their Souls above that wretched State. It is upon a like Supposition, that young Ladies at this very Time in *Roman* Catholick Countries are received into some Nunneries with their Coffins, and with the Pomp of a formal Funeral, to signify, That henceforth they are to be of no further Use, and consequently Dead. Nor was *Pythagoras* himself the first Author of this Symbol, with whom, and with the *Hebrews*, it was generally received. Much more might be offered in Illustration of this Doctrine from Sacred Authority, which I recommend to my Reader's own Reflection; who will easily recollect, from Places which I do not think fit to quote here, the forcible Manner of applying the Words Dead and Living to Men as they are good or bad.

I have therefore composed the following Scheme of Existence for the Benefit both of the Living and the Dead, tho' chiefly for the Latter, whom I must desire to read it with all possible Attention. In the Number of the Dead, I comprehend all Persons of what Title or Dignity soever, who bestow most of their Time in Eating and Drinking, to support that imaginary Existence of theirs, which they call Life; or in dressing and adorning those Shadows and Apparitions, which are looked upon by the Vulgar as real Men and Women. In short, whoever resides in the World without having any Business in it, and passes away an Age, without ever thinking on the Errand for which he was sent hither, is to me a Dead Man to all Intents and Purposes; and I desire that he may be so reputed. The Living are only those that are some Way or other laudably employed in the Improvement of their own Minds, or for the Advantage of others; and even among these, I shall only reckon into their Lives that Part of their Time which has been spent in the Manner above-mentioned. By these Means, I am afraid, we shall find the longest Lives not to consist of many Months, and the greatest Part of the Earth to be quite unpeopled. According to this System we may observe, that some Men are born at Twenty Years of Age, some at Thirty, some at Threescore, and some not above an Hour before they die; nay, we may observe Multitudes that die without ever being born, as well as many dead Persons that fill up the Bulk of Mankind, and make a better Figure in the Eyes of the Ignorant, than those who are alive, and in their proper and full State of Health. However, since there may be many good Subjects, that pay their Taxes, and live peaceably in their Habitations, who are not yet born, or have departed this Life several Years since, my Design is, to encourage both to join themselves as soon as possible to the Number of the Living: For as I invite the former to break forth into Being, and become good for something; so I allow the latter a State of Resuscitation; which I chiefly mention for the Sake of a Person, who has lately published an Advertisement, with several scurrilous Terms in it, that do by no Means become a dead Man to give. It is my departed Friend *John Partridge*, who concludes the Advertisement of his next Year's Almanack with the following Note.

Whereas it has been industriously given out by Bickerstaff *Esq; and others, to prevent the Sale of this Year's Almanack, that* John Partridge *is Dead: This may inform all his loving Countrymen, That he is still Living, in Health, and they are Knaves that reported it otherwise.*

J. P.

From my own Apartment, November 18.

When an Engineer finds his Guns have not had their intended Effect, he changes his Batteries. I am forced at present to take this Method; and instead of continuing to write against the Singularity some are guilty of in their Habit and Behaviour, I shall henceforward desire them to persevere in it; and not only so, but shall take it as a Favour of all the Coxcombs in the Town, if they will set Marks upon themselves, and by some Particular

cular in their Dress show to what Class they belong. It would be very obliging in all such Persons, who feel in themselves that they are not sound of Understanding, to give the World Notice of it, and spare Mankind the Pains of finding them out. A Cane upon the Fifth Button shall from henceforth be the Type of a Dapper; Red-heeled Shoes, and an Hat hung upon one Side of the Head, shall signify a Smart; a good Periwig made into a Twist, with a brisk Cock, shall speak a Mettled Fellow; and an upper Lip covered with Snuff, denotes a Coffee-house Statesman. But as it is required that all Coxcombs hang out their Signs, it is on the other hand expected, that Men of real Merit should avoid any Thing particular in their Dress, Gait, or Behaviour. For, as we old Men delight in Proverbs, I cannot forbear bringing out one on this Occasion, *That good Wine needs no Bush.* I must not leave this Subject without reflecting on several Persons I have lately met with, who at a Distance seem very terrible; but upon a stricter Enquiry into their Looks and Features, appeared as meek and harmless as any of my own Neighbours. These are Country Gentlemen, who of late Years have taken up an Humour of coming to Town in Red Coats, whom an arch Wag of my Acquaintance used to describe very well, by calling them Sheep in Wolves Cloathing. I have often wondered, that honest Gentlemen, who are good Neighbours, and live quietly in their own Possessions, should take it in their Heads to frighten the Town after this unreasonable Manner. I shall think my self obliged, if they persist in so unnatural a Dress (notwithstanding any Posts they may have in the Militia) to give away their Red Coats to any of the Soldiery who shall think fit to strip 'em, provided the said Soldiers can make it appear, that they belong to a Regiment where there is a Deficiency in the Cloathing.

About Two Days ago I was walking in the *Park*, and accidentally met a Rural Squire, clouthed in all the Types above-mentioned, with a Carriage and Behaviour made intirely out of his own Head. He was of a Bulk and Stature larger than ordinary, had a Red Coat, flung open, to show a gay Calamanco Waistcoat: His Periwig fell in a very considerable Buth upon each Shoulder: His Arms naturally swang at an unreasonable Distance from his Sides; which, with the Advantage of a Cane, that he brandished in a great Variety of irregular Motions, made it unsafe for any one to walk within several Yards of him. In this Manner he took up the whole *Mall*, his Spectators moving on each side of it, whilst he cocked up his Hat, and marched directly for *Westminster*. I cannot tell who this Gentleman is, but for my Comfort may say, with the Lover in *Terence*, who lost sight of a fine young Lady; *Wherever Thou art, Thou canst not be long concealed.*

St. James's Coffee-house, November 18.

By Letters from *Paris* of the 16th we are informed, that the *French* King, the Princes of the Blood, and the Elector of *Bavaria*, had lately killed Fifty five Pheasants.

Whereas several have industriously spread abroad, That I am in Partnership with Charles Lilly, *the Perfumer at the Corner of* Beaufort-Buildings; *I must say with my Friend* Partridge, *that they are Knaves who reported it. However, since the said* Charles *has promised that all his Customers shall be mine, I must desire all mine to be his; and dare answer for him, that if you ask in my Name for Snuff, Hungary or Orange-Water, you shall have the best the Town affords at the cheapest Rate.*

Advertisements.

*** In the Atlas Geographus which treats of Muscovy, Poland, Sweden and Denmark, and the Northern Parts, is a particular Account of the Wars between Sweden and Denmark, the taking of Schonen, Holland, &c. and the several Attempts of the Danes to recover them; and whatever relates to the Affairs of the North to this Time, with Maps of all the Places. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy, and sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s. each Month.

*** The Peerage of England, or an Historical and Genealogical Account of the present Nobility. Containing, the Descent, Original, Creations, and most remarkable Actions of them, and their respective Ancestors. Also the chief Titles of Honour and Preferment they now enjoy: With their Marriages and Issue, continu'd down to this present Year 1709. and the Paternal Coats of Arms of each Family in Blazon. Collected as well from our best Historians, publick Records, and other sufficient Authorities, as from the personal Informations of most of the Nobility. To which is prefix'd, An Introduction of the present Royal Family of Great Britain, traced thro' its several Branches down to this Time, and terminating with the Protestant Succession as settled by Act of Parliament. Printed for Abel Roper and Arthur Collins, at the Black Boy in Fleet-street. Price 6 s. N. B. There's a small Number printed on a large fine Paper. Price bound 10 s.

*** The Statutes at large, in Three Volumes; Wingate and Washington's Abridgments, with a Supplement to them; Mr. Clutterbuck's Plain and Rational Vindication and Explanation of the Liturgy; Dr. Gibson on the Sacrament, at 11. 5 s. per Hundred; Winchester Manual; Bibles and Common Prayers of all Sorts, ruled or unruled; a fine Set of Cuts for the Common Prayer, engraved by Mr. Sturt; Dr Nicolls's Paraphrase on the Common Prayer; the New Welch Common Prayer and Psalms, with or without Cuts; and Tate and Brady's Psalms, with the New Supplement; Bishop Beveridge's Catechism; Dr. Williams's Catechism; are sold by R. Whitledge, at the Bible and Ball in Ave-Mary-lane near Ludgate, at the lowest Prices.

THIS is to certify, That we Catherine and Alice Nuson, Sisters, in Cookley near Halsworth in Suffolk, do here declare, That we were both born blind of Cataracts, and lived in Darkness, till the youngest of us was above 20 Years of Age; when we applied our selves to Sir William READ, Her Majesty's Oculist, in Durham-yard in the Strand, London; who couched us both, and instantly brought us to our perfect Sight, to the great Joy and Comfort both to our selves and Parents; as is here attested by us, in Justice to Sir William, and for the publick Service. Catherine and Alice Nuson.

Note, Sir William READ, by his long Practice and great Experience, has found out a Medicine that prevents Cataracts in the Beginning, and preserves the Sight in Old or Young.

New Musick this Day publish'd,

Six Sonata's, 5 in 4, and 1 6th in 7 Parts; Compos'd in Imitation of Arcangelo Corelli, by Wm Topham, M. A. Opera Terza. Engraven in a fair Character, and carefully Corrected. Pr. 2 s. 6 d. Twenty four new Country Dances for the Year 1710, with proper Tunes, and new Figures or Directions to each Dance. Compos'd by Mr. Kynaston. Engraven, Pr. 6 d. Printed for J. Walsh, Servant in Ordinary to her Majesty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hautboy in Katherine-street near Somerset-House in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhill near the Royal-Exchange.

Just publish'd,

*** The Diseases of Women with Child, and in Child-Bed; As also, The best Means of helping them in Natural and Unnatural Labours. With fit Remedies for the several Indispositions of New-born Babes. To which is prefix'd, an exact Description of the Parts of Generation in Women. A Work much more perfect than any now extant, and very necessary for all, especially Midwives and Men practising that Art. The Fourth Edition, Corrected, and augmented with several new Figures, and with the Description of an excellent Instrument to bring a Child that comes wrong. All correctly engraven in Copper. Written in French by Francis Mauriceau. And translated by Hugh Chamberlen, M. D. Printed for A. Bell at the Cross-keys and Bible in Cornhill near Stocks Market.

*** ICONOLOGIA, or Moral Emblems, by Cæsar Ripa; wherein are express'd various Images of Virtues, Vices, Passions, Arts, Humours, Elements, and Celestial Bodies, as design'd by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Modern Italians: Useful for Orators, Poets, Painters, Sculptors, and all Lovers of Ingenuity whatsoever. Illustrated with 326 Human Figures, with their Explanations, newly designed and engraven by J. Fuller, and other Masters. The Cries and Habits of the City of London, every Figure drawn after the Life, by Mr. Laurron; printed on 74 half Sheets of Paper. Printed, and Sold by P. Tempest at the Golden Head in James-street Covent-Garden, and at the Italian Coffee-house in Katherine-street in the Strand.

*** The famous Medicine for curing the Cholick, that has for some Time been sold by Mr. Rogers, Bookseller in Fleet-street, at 2 s. and 6 d. the Paper, has lately cur'd a Gentlewoman near Tunbridge of above 70 Years old, who had been afflicted with that Distemper at Times for above 40 Years, and for above half a Year last past had it without any Intermission, as appears by a Letter from a Friend of the Gentlewoman's sent to Mr. Rogers, dated July 9. 1709. which is to be seen at his Shop by any one that desires it.

THE very best Brazil, 48 s. Portugal, 18 s. with Allowance to them that buy Quantities. Also Snuff from Mexico, Port St. Louis, Barcelona, Amazonia, and Port Mahon. To be sold very cheap by Wholesale or Retail, at the Sign of Bedford-Court near Covent Garden.